GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

EFS&T Department - Diversion of 64.23 Ha of forest land for construction of 800 KV HVDC Raigarh-Puglur Transmission Line in Kurnool, Proddatur, Kadapa and Chittoor (West) Forest Divisions in favour of Additional General Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Secunderabad – Stage-II (Final) approval accorded – Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONEMNT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Section-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 38 **Dated: 06-07-2021.**
Read the following:-

1) From the PCCF & HoFF, Lr.No.7448/2017/FCA-3, Dt.06.07.2018.
2) State Govt.Lr.No.3212/Section.II/2018, EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dated.25.07.2018.
3) From GoI, MoEF& C.C, Lr No.4-APB065/2018-CHN/1448, Dt.10.09.2018.
4) State Govt.Lr.No.3212/Section.II/2018, EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dated.03.03.2021.
5) From GoI, MoEF& C.C, Lr No.4-APB065/2018-CHN/29, Dt.06.04.2021.

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ORDER:

In the letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, has submitted a proposal under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 64.23 Ha of forest land for construction of 800 KV HVDC Raigarh-Puglur Transmission Line in Kurnool, Proddatur, Kadapa and Chittoor (West) Forest Divisions in favour of Additional General Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Secunderabad and requested to forward the same to Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Regional Office, Chennai for consideration of the proposal.

2. In the letter 2nd read above, the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests was sent to Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, Chennai for their approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

3. In the letter 3rd read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, Chennai have accorded in-principle (Stage-I) approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act,1980, for the proposal, subject to compliance of certain conditions as stipulated therein. Accordingly, in the letter 4th read above, the State Government furnished compliance report on the conditions stipulated by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office, Chennai while according in-principle (Stage-I) approval.

4. In the letter 5th read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada have accorded (Stage-II) approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 64.23 Ha of forest land for construction of 800 KV HVDC Raigarh-Puglur Transmission Line in Kurnool, Proddatur, Kadapa and Chittoor (West) Forest Divisions in favour of Additional General Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Secunderabad, subject to certain conditions stipulated therein.

5. After careful examination of the proposal, the Government hereby accord permission to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, for diversion of 64.23 Ha of forest land for construction of 800 KV HVDC Raigarh-Puglur Transmission Line in Kurnool, Proddatur, Kadapa and Chittoor (West) Forest Divisions in favour of Additional General Manager, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Secunderabad, subject to the following conditions:-

i. The Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;

ii. The demarcation of the proposed area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 metres by the User Agency in consultation with the DCF concerned, at the project cost;

iii. The State Forest Department shall carryout Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and its maintenance over 128.50 ha out of 140 ha of degraded forest land

identified in Compt.No.1, Dobbudupalli RF, Dhodium Beat, Muddanur Range in Proddatur Forest Division from the amount already realized from the User Agency;

iv. The degraded forest land identified for CA and the approved CA scheme shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the State Forest Department shall ensure that the amount realized from the User Agency towards CA should not be left unspent as recommended by the REC;

v. Additional amount of Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency;

vi. The State Forest Department shall carryout creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species *(preferably medicinal plants)* under the transmission line from the amount which is already realized from the User Agency;

vii. The maximum width of right of way for the proposed transmission line on the forest land shall not be more than 69 mtrs;

viii. The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred / sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;

ix. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;

x. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.

xi. The User Agency shall provide fire wood, preferably alternate fuel to labourers working at the site to avoid damage/tree felling;

xii. Disturbance shall be kept minimal by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it will be the responsibility of the user agency to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;

xiii. The enumerated trees on the 69 meter width strip (right of way) would have to be felled but after stringing work is completed, natural regeneration shall be allowed to come up. Felling / pollarding / pruning of trees shall be done with the permission of the local forest officer wherever necessary for the maintenance of transmission lines;

xiv. In case the portion of transmission line to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut;

xv. The State Forest Department shall ensure to plant adequate number of red sanders trees at the project cost to compensate for the felling of the species involved in this project;

xvi. During construction of transmission line, pollarding / pruning of trees located outside the above width of the strip, whose branches / parts infringe with conductor stringing , shall be carried out to the extent necessary, as may be decided by the local forest officer;

xvii. The User Agency at the project cost shall provide bird deflectors, which are to be fixed on the upper conductor of the transmission line at suitable intervals to avoid bird hits;

xviii. All efforts shall be taken to minimize felling of trees and the State Forest Department shall carry out translocation of trees wherever feasible instead of resorting to felling, at the cost of the User Agency;

xix. The User Agency shall comply with the guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas issued by Ministry vide letter No. 7-25/2012-FC dated 05/05/2014 & 19/11/2014.

xx. The User Agency and the State Govt. shall ensure compliance of all the court orders, provisions, rules, regulations and guidelines for the time being in force as applicable to the project.

xxi. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **64.23 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;

xxii. The progress of the Compensatory Afforestation under the jurisdiction of Chittoor (West), Kadapa, Kurnool and Proddatur (WL) Divisions shall be monitored by the respective Circle Head and a copy of such monitoring report shall be forwarded to the integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada;

xxiii. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.

xxiv. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forest and Wildlife.

xxv. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by the Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019;

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, shall take further necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)
VIJAY KUMAR GSRKR
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Guntur.

Copy to:
The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central)
Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests,
Regional Office, 1st and 2nd Floors,
Handloom Export promotion Council Building
34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600034.

The Inspector General of Forests (Central)
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Integrated Regional Office,
Green House Complex, Gopal Reddy Road, Vijayawada-520010.

The Additional. General Manager,
Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Southern Region Transmission System-I,
Regional office, Kawadiguda Main Road, Secunderabad - 500080.

SF/SC

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER